STATE OF MICHIGAN
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

Campaign Finance Election Cycle Dates
January 4, 2013

The Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA) sets contribution limits for state level, judicial and local offices. These contribution limits are accumulated based on the election cycle of the office and are reset after the election. So, election cycles are used to accumulate contributions and expenditures for reporting purposes and to avoid violating the MCFA by accepting or making an excess contribution. If you are using the MERTS Software, the election cycles must be entered for the software to accumulate contributions and expenditures. For current contribution limits please see the Contribution Limits Chart.

Determining the Election Cycle for a Campaign

For a general election, the election cycle begins the day following the last general election in which the office appeared on the ballot and ends on the day of the next general election in which the office appears on the ballot. For a special election the election cycle begins the day the special general election is called or the date the office becomes vacant (which ever is earlier) and ends on the day of the special general election.

Entering the Election Cycles into the MERTS Software

The MERTS Software is designed to calculate the cumulative contributions and expenditures made by committees and provide warnings if the committee may have accepted or made an excess contribution. For the software to work properly, the election cycles must be entered and used properly. See the MERTS User Guide for more information.

Candidate Committees and Ballot Question Committees: A separate election cycle must be entered for each campaign that the committee participates in. It is recommended that directly following each election, a new election cycle is entered, even if you there are no plans to participate in the next election. The date of a contribution must be associated with the election cycle whose range includes this date. When filing an annual campaign statement that contains activity in the old and the new election cycle, use the election cycle of the past election.

PACs and Political Party Committees: A separate election cycle must be entered for each unique period of time covered by an election cycle. Therefore, it is not necessary to enter a separate election cycle for each candidate for which the committee makes contributions. Further, a separate campaign must be created in MERTS for each candidate or ballot proposal. For example, you may have a State Representative committee and a local office that have the same election cycle. The election cycle would be entered once in the Election Cycles window and associated with both the State Representative and Local campaigns. The date of a contribution must be associated with the election cycle whose range includes this date.

Recommendations for Naming Election Cycles: For all election cycles, it is recommended that the election cycle name is entered in the MERTS Software with the month and year of election and the length of the cycle. For example, a 2 year cycle for the November General election in 2008 would be: 11/08 2 YR.

The election cycles for upcoming even year general elections are provided in the charts below. A chart is provided to assist in the calculation of an election not included here or for a special election.

November 4, 2014 General Election

Office	Cycle	Election Cycle Begins	Election Cycle Ends
• Supreme Court • State Board of Education • State University Boards	**8** year cycle	11/8/2006	
• Court of Appeals • Circuit Court • District Court • Probate Court • Local Offices with 6 year terms	**6** year cycle	11/5/2008	**11/4/2014**
• State Senate • Local Offices with 4 year terms	**4** year cycle	11/3/2010	
• State Representative • Ballot Issues • Local Offices with 2 year terms	**2** year cycle	11/7/2012	

November 8, 2016 General Election

Office	Cycle	Election Cycle Begins	Election Cycle Ends
• Supreme Court • State Board of Education • State University Boards	**8** year cycle	11/5/2008	
• Court of Appeals • Circuit Court • District Court • Probate Court • Local Offices with 6 year terms	**6** year cycle	11/3/2010	**11/8/2016**
• Local Offices with 4 year terms	**4** year cycle	11/7/2012	
• State Representative • Ballot Issues • Local Offices with 2 year terms	**2** year cycle	11/5/2014	

November 6, 2018 General Election

Office	Cycle	Election Cycle Begins	Election Cycle Ends
• Supreme Court • State Board of Education • State University Boards	**8** year cycle	11/3/2010	**11/6/2018**
• Court of Appeals • Circuit Court • District Court • Probate Court • Local Offices with 6 year terms	**6** year cycle	11/7/2012	
• State Senate • Local Offices with 4 year terms	**4** year cycle	11/5/2014	
• State Representative • Ballot Issues • Local Offices with 2 year terms	**2** year cycle	11/9/2016	

Election Cycle Dates Calculator

Office	Election Cycle Begins the day after the last election for that office. *Enter the previous date of election + one*	Election Cycle Ends on the date of the Election. *Enter the date of the Election*
• Offices with 8 year terms	_____/_____/_____	
• Offices with 6 year terms	_____/_____/_____	_____/_____/_____
• Offices with 4 year terms	_____/_____/_____	
• Ballot Issues • Offices with 2 year terms	_____/_____/_____	

Special Election Cycle Dates Calculator

Office	Election Cycle Begins the earlier of the two 1) the day the election is called or 2) the day the seat becomes vacant *Enter the Date*	Election Cycle Ends on the date of the Special Election. *Enter the date of the Special Election*
• Office of Special Election	_____/_____/_____	_____/_____/_____